

Commerce Secretary Meets industry leaders from EPCs/Associations



10th June 2025, New Delhi: Mr. Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, convened a high-level meeting with representatives of various Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and industry associations in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by senior government officials, including Mr. Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary; Mr. L. Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary; Mr. Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr. Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary and Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT); and Ms. Arti Bhatnagar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Commerce.



EPCH was represented by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Sagar Mehta, Vice Chairman, EPCH; and Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH.

The meeting aimed to review the current export performance and deliberate on strategies to strengthen India's export sector. It served as a platform for meaningful dialogue between policymakers and industry stakeholders to enhance coordination and responsiveness in export promotion.

Dr. Neeraj Khanna provided a comprehensive overview of the handicrafts sector, highlighting its export performance and EPCH's ongoing initiatives. He also brought attention to several key concerns, including:

- Implications of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

- Duty-free import of essential embellishments, trimmings, tools, and consumables under the IGCR Scheme
- Establishment of a robust trade dispute resolution mechanism through the DGFT portal
- Relaxation under Section 43B of the Income Tax Act for MSME exporters regarding timely receipt of payments
- Facilitation of cross-border B2B e-commerce
- Continuation of the Interest Equalisation Scheme
- Enhanced support for compliance, raw material innovation, and increased funding for research and development (R&D)

Mr. Barthwal gave a patient and constructive hearing to the concerns raised. ■

EPCH Delegation calls on Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs; and meets Senior Government Officials to Discuss Export Promotion Strategies

19th June 2025, New Delhi: A delegation from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), led by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, and joined by Mr. Sagar Mehta, Vice Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Raj Kumar Malhotra; and Mr. Ravi K. Passi, Members of the Committee of Administration, EPCH; Mr. R.K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; and Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH, met with Mr. Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs; Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles; and Mr. Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

During the meetings, Dr. Neeraj Khanna presented an overview of the handicrafts sector's export performance and engaged in discussions on various export promotion strategies aimed at strengthening India's position in the global handicrafts market.



EPCH delegation led by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH greeting Mr. Pabitra Margherita, Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs, Govt. of India



The EPCH delegation meeting Mr. Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; and Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India



EPCH raises key issues of the handicrafts sector during high-level meeting with Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India in Moradabad

25th June 2025; Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh



Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India along with other senior officials including Ms. Vrunda Manohar Desai, Addl. DGFT (CLA); Shri Anuj Singh, District Magistrate, Moradabad; Dr. Sukhbir Singh Badal, Joint DGFT held an interactive meeting with industry leaders and exporters at Moradabad.

The handicraft sector was represented by Chairman, EPCH - Dr. Neeraj Khanna along with Member CoA - EPCH Shri Avdesh Aggarwal, Shri Salman Azam and Shri Najmul Islam, Patron Artisan Society.

During the meeting, Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman-EPCH, gave an overview of the handicrafts sector highlighting the sectors significant role in employment generation and rural development, particularly in craft clusters like Moradabad. He also presented sector's recent export performance and shared key challenges faced by exporters. Chairman - EPCH emphasised the need for enhanced infrastructure support, streamlined policy facilitation and greater market access through strategic promotion and international trade event.

Above: Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman-EPCH addressing the high level delegation



Right: Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, addressing the gathering



India Exposition Mart Ltd. and Garment Technology Expo Pvt. Ltd. forge a strategic partnership to elevate India's premier garment technology sector event - GTE

25th June 2025; Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Ltd. (IEM), reaffirmed IEM's commitment to GTE's growth, adding, "We are pleased to partner with Garment Technology Expo (GTE), India's leading garment machinery exhibition for over 25 years. This strategic partnership underscores IEM's commitment to nurturing industry-leading trade fairs and fostering innovation-driven growth. GTE has emerged as a pivotal platform for garment technology in India and the region. With IEM's office presence Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow, we are fully equipped to scale GTE's expansion across India. Together, we're set to redefine the benchmark for garment technology expos in the country."

Mr. Inderjit S. Sahni, Founder & Chairman, Garment Technology Expo (GTE), shared his delight on the renewed partnership, saying, "For over 25 years, GTE has grown across Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Bangalore. We are excited to partner with India Exposition Mart Limited to strengthen GTE. This strategic partnership marks a promising new chapter, and we look forward to even larger, more impactful events ahead."



Dr Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, IEM, along with Mr. Ricky Sahni, Jt. Managing Director, Garment Technology Expo (GTE); Mr Mukesh Gupta Director, IEM and Mr. Ambrish Chopra, Director, Garment Technology Expo (GTE) releasing information to press & media about GTE held today.

EPCH signs MoU with Ideas to Impact Foundation, program partner, Walmart Vridhhi



28th June 2025, Moradabad: Marking a major milestone for India's MSME sector, an MoU was signed between EPCH and the Ideas to Impact Foundation, program partner for the Walmart Vridhhi initiative. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Neeraj Khanna,

Chairman, EPCH, along with Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor EPCH and General Secretary MHEA; Mr. Kamal Soni, Mr. Salman Azam, Members CoA EPCH; Mr. Naved Ur Rehman, Member CoA, EPCH and President, MHEA; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Addl. Executive Director, EPCH; Mr. Anshul Aggarwal, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti, Moradabad; Mr. Vishal Aggarwal, National Chairman, Young Entrepreneur's Society (YES); Mr. Najmul Islam, Patron-Moradabad; Mr. J.P. Singh, Chairman, YES; Mr. Jitin Prashar, Senior VP, Expo Bazaar; Mr. Sandeep Sanon, Executive Director, Ideas to Impact Foundation; Mr. Amit Phull, Trustee, Ideas to Impact Foundation; Mr. Harbinder Singh, Programme Director, e-Nurture and many prominent member exporters from Moradabad. The event, hosted by Expo Bazaar (a subsidiary of India Expo Mart), emphasised the transformative power of e-commerce and global trade in empowering Indian artisans and exporters. ■

Handicrafts Exporters in Agra organise Members Meet Celebrate GI Tag Award for Agra Stone Inlay Work



In his address, Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, shared his vision for the Council, highlighting the importance of member outreach programs, branding and packaging, skill development and training, product innovation and meeting buyer compliance requirements. He assured complete support to HEA in these initiatives.

The members' meet witnessed the participation of over 100 handicrafts exporters from Agra.

28th June 2025, Agra: The Handicrafts Exporters Association (HEA), Agra, organised a members' meet of handicrafts exporters to celebrate the GI Tag award for Agra Stone Inlay Work.

On this occasion, HEA Agra invited and felicitated Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, as the Guest of Honour. The association also extended a warm welcome and felicitated Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; Mr. Salman Azam and Mr. Rajendra Gupta, Members, Committee of Administration (COA), EPCH; and Mr. Rohit Dhall, Mr. Rajat Singhal and Mr. Tushar Sikka from the Young Exporters Society (YES), Moradabad.

In addition, HEA welcomed and honoured Dr. T K Rout, Director, Textiles Committee, Mumbai, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; Mr. Sushil Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME, Agra; and Mr. Prahlad Agarwal, President, Agra Tourist Welfare Association, for their significant contributions toward securing the GI Tag for Agra Stone Inlay Work.

During the event, EPCH also felicitated Dr. S K Tyagi, Secretary, HEA Agra, in recognition of his dedicated service towards the growth of handicrafts exports from Agra and his persistent efforts in achieving the GI Tag for Agra Stone Inlay Work.



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, Guest of Honour at the Meet that was graced by Mr. R. K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; Members, Committee of Administration (COA), EPCH - Mr. Salman Azam and Mr. Rajendra Gupta; Members, Young Exporters Society (YES), Moradabad - Mr. Rohit Dhall, Mr. Rajat Singhal and Mr. Tushar Sikka; Dr. T K Rout, Director, Textiles Committee, Mumbai, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; Mr. Sushil Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME, Agra; Mr. Prahlad Agarwal, President, Agra Tourist Welfare Association; and Dr. S K Tyagi, Secretary, Handicrafts Exporters Association (HEA), Agra

